TELESCOPE-MESSENGER

Center for the Evangelical
United Brethren Heritage

United Theological Seminary Dayton, Ohio

Volume 32 No. 1 Winter 2024

WORDS FROM THE WISE

Have we not reason to thank God and take courage?

--Lewis Davis at 1871 Opening of
Union Biblical Seminary

JUST A PLACE?

After so many recent natural disasters and wildfires we may find ourselves in almost constant prayer for those so horribly affected. During such times as these, those who have lost so much often express their gratitude for the fact that their lives, and the lives of those they love, have been spared. And so it should be.

On the other hand, the loss of property is no small thing; instead, it is a loss of the physical place holder of many memories—good, and, well, bad. Without those tangible reminders of our memories, we must acknowledge we have lost something precious--that is what this most recent issue of the Telescope Messenger is all about, the loss of the buildings at the Harvard Boulevard campus of United Theological Seminary (except for the chapel).

These losses mean there are fewer places housing our memories of a seminary that was at the heart of the UB, then EUB church for so long. So, in this issue are just a very few of those memories (with a little present-day business sprinkled in) shared with the hope they may stimulate some of your own.

* * *

CATCHING UP WITH THE DIRECTOR

Wendy Deichmann

Our Director is always in motion, but she has stopped a minute to share some important items about the Center.

ANNUAL MEETING--Twice each year the EUB Council meets to conduct the business connected with keeping our heritage strong. The fall meeting is our Annual Meeting.

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THE FOUT CAMPUS OR FOUT'S FOLLY

Andy Wood

On June 12, 2024, demolition of Fout Hall on the old Harvard Boulevard Campus of United Theological Seminary began. Local news reports used the term "eyesore" to refer to Fout Hall, but when it was built, between 1920 and 1923, it was considered an architectural achievement by the then famous Olmsted Brothers architectural firm. At the time it was the anchor of the "new" Harvard Boulevard campus of Bonebrake (now United) Theological Seminary—the seminary of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ.

Choosing to build the hall, and the other two buildings, on the property the seminary owned was by no means an easy decision. Beset with delays and heavily criticized, it was a significant financial risk at the time. The cost seemed prohibitive, about $12.5 million in 2024 dollars, but despite the cost and the difficulties of such an undertaking, the namesake of the Hall, J.E. Fout, was a man of tough optimism and enduring vision, though he carried a "heavy burden." Fout's memorial declared that the entire campus "stands as a memorial to a man who would not recognize defeat." The best years of his life were "placed upon the altar of his alma mater." He was simply the hero of the Harvard campus because without him it most likely would not have been built.[1]

Several officers of our present-day seminary were present at the demolition of Fout Hall, including the entire library staff. We were graciously hosted by Pastor Joshua Ward and other leaders of Omega Baptist Church, the current owners of the old seminary campus in the Dayton View neighborhood. Many state, local, and community organizations were also represented. Library and archives staff from United had prepared a brief written and pictorial history. Displays reminded attendees of the building in its original "glory," as one longtime Dayton View resident said. President Kent Millard offered remarks in a formal ceremony on the southwest side of the building. Then the group pilgrimaged to the northeast or courtyard side to witness the initial demolition. United's Library staff recovered several yellow bricks from the rubble for display and preservation. The beautiful Breyfogel/Zimmerman Chapel still stands on the campus and Omega leaders affirmed their intentions to refurbish and maintain that building as the only remaining physical structure from the previous seminary campus.

As demolition began, President Millard asked me what I was thinking. I answered, "I am wondering what Fout would be thinking!"

But who was this "Fout?" I had no idea how important he had been to the seminary.

Fout Hall was named in honor of Rev. Dr. Julius Edward and Jennie Fout, his wife. Dr. Fout (1869-1930)[2] was the author and founder of the Harvard campus, which served as the home for the seminary from 1923 to 2005. Elected to the position by the General Conference of 1909, J. E. Fout was, from 1909 to 1925, the Business Manager of Bonebrake Theological Seminary. The job was basically both the Seminary's President and the Vice President of finance and administration.[3]

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Memories and More: Not Just a Dorm

Caryn Dalton

Until the closing of United's Harvard Boulevard campus in 2004, many students lived on campus in Fout and Roberts Halls. For almost five years after I enrolled in February 1996, I was one of those residents. Single students, families, and commuting students all found a home in the rooms on campus. These commuter students had homes elsewhere or lived in parsonages where they served as student associates, but for one or two nights each week they stayed on campus, primarily in Fout Hall.

In the earlier campus years, it was common for some faculty and their families to live in Fout Hall along with the students. In the late 1990s two notable professors, the late Dr. Prathia Hall and the late Dr. Donald Rogers had apartments on the first floor of Fout. My first apartment was on the same wing as theirs.

Campus apartments had small kitchenettes but part of life on campus was Common Meal, held at Noon on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays following the chapel services that were led by students, faculty and staff. Breyfogel Chapel, later renamed Zimmerman Chapel, was the setting for community worship—especially beautiful when the sun shone through the stained-glass windows as we worshipped together. In addition to worship, life on campus was full of social activities. Students living on campus shared meals together, hung out in the basement of Bonebrake Hall watching TV or movies, and joined together in off campus excursions.

United has a long history of welcoming international students, and the availability of on campus housing was important to them. A few of us living on campus were sometimes asked to pick up new international students and their families at the airport prior to New Student Orientation week.

One semester we had two families from Africa, one family from Jamaica, and a couple of single students coming in from Burma and South Korea. For all of them, it was their first time coming to the US. I shuttled them from the airport to campus as they arrived. Each was assigned a local student host whose responsibility it was to help them through orientation week and settle into their Fout or Roberts apartments. This included making shopping trips to get essentials for cooking, clothing, and other things. Because they were coming with limited belongings, efforts were made by local church groups to furnish their apartments with furniture and kitchen supplies.

As one of the hosts, I was paired with the student from Burma, a young man in his mid-twenties.

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Eds. Wendy Deichmann
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THE FOUT CAMPUS OR FOUT'S FOLLY

(cont'd)

Born in West Virginia, Fout was himself an 1893 graduate of the seminary. His older brother, 1890 graduate H. H. Fout, would become a bishop. The Fout family were Virginia Conference UBs. J.E. Fout was a pastor in Washington DC, and Fostoria and Toledo, Ohio, before 1909, then pastor in Detroit from 1925 to 1930 after Jennie's death. The Fouts are buried at Woodland Cemetery in Dayton, Ohio.

Jennie Fout died in 1925. She had been a trustee of the United Brethren Women's Missionary Association which raised $75,000 to create the Vera Blinn Chair of Missions, the first seminary Chair named for a woman. Of Jennie it was written, there was "no one more faithful . . . making a great contribution to our association, our church, and our Lord's work. We thank God because He granted us the privilege of working with her." [4]

Professor George A. Funkhouser, one of two original professors at the Seminary's founding in 1871, called Fout an "optimistic and energetic manager," and it was said that "the number of students whom he has personally assisted would make a very long list." Fout was "uniformly courteous and considerate" with the faculty. "Doctor Fout carried a heavier load than many persons, even those closest to him, clearly understood." It took twelve years to go from buying the land to occupying the campus. "It was Dr. and Mrs. Fout who saw this enterprise through."[5]

The memorial to Fout gives us our charge to keep: "Who shall measure the inspiration which his joyous and optimistic nature brought to others? Who shall measure the energy with which he went about the work assigned him? . . . As long as time endures his memory shall be enshrined in the Bonebrake Theological Seminary."[6]

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[1] "Dr. J. E. Fout Retires as Business Manager," The Bonebrake Theological Seminary Bulletin, XXI, No. 3, (1925): 3. "In Memoriam: Dr. J. E. Fout," The Bonebrake Theological Seminary Bulletin, XXVI, No. 4, (Autumn Number, 1930): 29-30.

[2] His tombstone appears to read 1938. The official history of 1954 reads "1930" as does the Find a Grave webpage. Most decisively, the memorial to Fout appears in the Autumn Number of the Seminary Bulletin in 1930.

[3] "From 1871 to 1929, the Seminary had a dual system of administration." One head manager took care of the financial and business side of the seminary: the "business manager" (1885-1929) or previously the "general agent," a term that suggests the principal fundraiser, the person who makes sure the school has the resources it needs to function. The other person looked after academic matters and was a full-time professor. Until 1907, that person was called "Senior Professor," then Dean, and from 1909 to 1929, president. Since 1929, the seminary has had a governing system with one executive officer. Ten people held Fout's job in the seminary's first 59 years. Fout held it for 16 years. Eight of his colleagues averaged less than four years each. "Pageant of Progress Number," The Bonebrake Theological Seminary Bulletin, XLV, No. 3, (Third Quarter, 1946): 39-41.

[4] Alice M. Bell, General Secretary, "Report of the Women's Missionary Society," Yearbook of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, 1926, 26-27. Bell continued, thankful "of following in the path of the heroic

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Meeting at the Archives

Andy Wood

We have experienced a season of busyness and accomplishment since July. Historical donations to the Center are coming in at a quickened pace! Our donors are "Grade A" and #1. THANK YOU!! We also celebrate our colleagues in collecting and preserving–like Minnesota Annual Conference Archivist Heidi Heller and new NCJCAH Chair Melanie Young. The work of interpreting the EUB heritage has been especially strong since the last report.

In July, we had another wonderful gathering of the History of Methodism course taught by Dr. Wendy! Students appreciate the ecumenical spirit of the EUB heritage and what might be called its "sweetness." Leaning on the Everlasting Arms—an EUB classic known and loved throughout the Christian world—has become a new anthem on campus. Dr. Wendy's course has become the highlight of the EUB year!

Research is especially lively in and related to the Archives. Work has begun identifying additional historic sites, including gravesites, as well as timelines and anniversaries to celebrate. Much fresh research by trustees, faculty, and the president's office has been conducted utilizing our collections. In addition, a PhD student researcher made contact recently! Inquiries have begun regarding records management practices that will preserve United's ongoing history. Library and archives staff have recruited new members and financial donors, as well as guided many EUB/alum tours for visitors recently. If you would like to visit, let us know! Many of our displays are new in the last year, done by our curator Mark Condy!

There has also been a lively amount of outreach since our last TM. Ken Cochrane and I presented on historical research and resources to Doctor of Theology students in July and Doctor of Ministry students in August. Of course, we made a pitch for more research on the EUB tradition! In October, Dr. Sarah Blair and I presented papers at the Ohio Methodist Historical Society meeting held at First UMC in Springboro, Ohio. Mark Condy and Ken assisted. Sarah's presentation on EUB women and missions is most worthy of publication! The Heirs of Pietism Conference in October, held in conjunction with the EUB annual meeting, was a triumph! I made two presentations there, the second of which ended with a discussion regarding the EUB heritage that was encouraging to many of us. Dr. Kent Millard's support was greatly appreciated! See us again in 2026!

For the second year, the seminary observed #ArchivesMonth with a series of social media posts on EUB history, highlighting the Center's mission to maintain this history. An EUB Strategy and Community Formation committee began on campus, a group working on strengthening the EUB heritage for United students and community.

Please remember and participate in our Oral History project!! Documenting your memories is an act of preserving the EUB heritage AND creating NEW sources that future generations might explore! Please, do not let modesty, or busyness, keep you from this duty!

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Memories and More: Not Just a Dorm (cont)

He and I made a list and went shopping for groceries, fruits, vegetables, rice, and coconut oil plus a coat and hat. It was much chillier than he was used too. When we returned to campus, we carried everything up to his second floor Fout apartment and put everything away. He was shy and didn't ask a lot of questions. He thanked me and I told him a couple of us would be by the next morning to go with him to chapel service.

The next morning, we arrived to find that he was visibly distressed. When we asked what was wrong, he told us after the sun had gone down, he sat in the dark all night long. He did not know how to turn on a light switch. Then he said that he had never used a stove before, he only knew how to cook on an open fire! He even shared that he was born in a remote village in Burma and there was no way to know his actual date of birth other than the month because they lived without calendars.

It was a lesson to us that we often take too much for granted.

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CATCHING UP WITH THE DIRECTOR (cont'd)

The annual meeting of the Center for EUB Heritage took place on campus and via Webex the morning of October 23, 2024, just prior to the Pietism Conference. Twenty-two members were in attendance. Director Wendy Deichmann convened the meeting for Chair Gary Olin, who, unfortunately, missed the occasion for medical reasons.

Devotions were led by Mary Ann Tomlinson. Following greetings by seminary President Kent Millard, reports were given.

Under New Business, the following actions were approved unanimously:

-The name of the governing body for the Center was changed from "EUB Center Advisory Council" to "EUB Center Council," removing the word, "Advisory."

-A "Memorandum of Understanding" was approved between the Center and the seminary that explains, and thus clarifies, the relationship between the two related organizations.

-Current officers of the Council were approved to continue in place for the coming year. They are: Gary Olin, Chair; Carol Pohly, Secretary; Harold Stockman, Treasurer.

-It was determined that the Executive Committee will identify individuals to serve for one year as "assistants" to the current officers. Assistants will be members of the Executive Committee with voice but without voting privilege. The assistant to each position will be well-positioned to fill the respective officer position in the future, subject to approval by the Council.

-A budget was approved for the upcoming year.

-The Executive Committee was tasked with clarifying a proposal for student membership in the Center.

The meeting was closed with singing "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," an EUB hymn that has recently been adopted by the Dean of the Chapel, Tesia Mallory, as the school anthem.

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CATCHING UP WITH THE DIRECTOR (cont'd)

HEIRS OF PIETISM CONFERENCE--

The second Heirs of Pietism in World Christianity Conference took place October 23-25, 2024, at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, October 23-25, 2024. The event featured academic presentations and worship in the spirit of the Pietist heritage of the school.

Steven O'Malley's keynote examined the influence of the 18th century Herborn School in Germany on William Otterbein and the United Brethren in Christ (UBC) in North America. Opening day also included an exploration by Wendy Deichmann of the presence of women in the pre-founding years of the UBC, and an evaluation by Andrew Kinsey of the theology of Holy Communion as a means of creating unity in the Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) Church.

On the second day scholars explored a comparison of Arminianism and Continental Pietism by Richard Clark; the essentially eternal or open nature of the human in 18th century medical discourse by Laurel Lied; an assessment of the educational theology of Amos Comenius by Ryan Bianchet; and a presentation on the "theopoetics" of Pietism by Scott Holland. Pietism in the theology of John Wesley came into focus in presentations by Michael Hoff and George Fickley, while Joshua Toepper brought to light female Pietist emphases in the ministry of Wesley's contemporary, English Methodist Mary Bosanquet Fletcher.

In the final set of papers, Xavier Johnson recounted the significance of Pietism in the life and ministry of 19th century African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Bishop Daniel Alexander Payne; Denise Kettering-Lane analyzed immigration patterns between Krefeld, Germany and Germantown, Pennsylvania; Klaus Arnold examined the theology of the church in the "New Pietism" of Theodor Jellinghaus; and Andrew Wood compared and contrasted the EUB tradition and the 20th century Church of the Nazarene.

Papers from the conference will be available in a second published volume in the Heirs of Pietism series, and a third Heirs of Pietism Conference will be scheduled for 2026, in celebration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of Martin Boehm and Philip William Otterbein.

(cont'd on pg. 9)

Meeting at the Archives (cont'd)

If you know others who could be interviewed, please reach out without delay! To participate please email us at the Telescope Messenger and we will forward your information to Carol Pohly.

The years 2025 and 2026 will be BIG! 2025 is the 300th anniversary of Martin Boehm's birth and the 225th anniversary of the founding of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ! It is the 125th anniversary of Susan Bauernfeind going to Japan. 2026 is the 300th anniversary of Philip William Otterbein's birth and the 125th anniversary of the first woman clergy delegate to the UB General Conference. If you know of other anniversaries please share them at awood@united.edu or (937) 529-2325. We hope to announce programming related to anniversaries soon!

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THE FOUT CAMPUS OR FOUT'S FOLLY

(cont'd)

leaders of an older generation... we pray that their memory may make us faithful and efficient in service."p.27. For Vera Blinn Chair see Robert, Dana L. "The Influence of American Missionary Women on the World Back Home." Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation 12, no. 1 (2002): 59–89. 82-83. "In Memoriam: Mrs. J. E. Fout," The Bonebrake Theological Seminary "Campus" 1926 Number p. 7. Students remembered her with this poem.

"To the problems of the Seminary Mrs. Fout brought
A vision of the ministry glorified
A soul for lasting friendships
A resourcefulness in meeting student problems, and
A prayerfulness by which she was knit to the whole world.
For the Seminary she burned out her very soul,—and her life."

[5] Souvenir, Fortieth Anniversary of the Bonebrake Theological Seminary, May 2, 1912, 25; "Dr. J. E. Fout Retires as Business Manager," 3; "Pageant of Progress Number," The Bonebrake Theological Seminary Bulletin, XLV, No. 3 (Third Quarter, 1946): 32-33.

[6] "In Memoriam: Dr. J. E. Fout," 29-30.

MRS. J. E. FOUT

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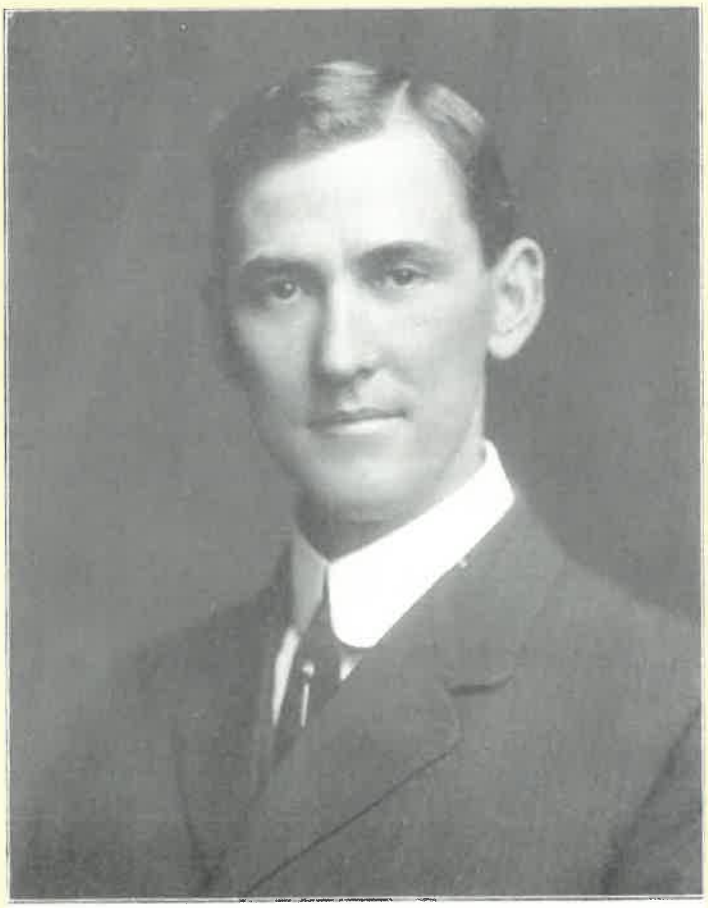

JULIUS E. FOUT, D.D.

"In Memoriam: Mrs. J. E. Fout," The Bonebrake Theological Seminary "Campus" 1926 Number p. 7.

(more photos on pg. 9)

CATCHING UP WITH THE DIRECTOR (cont'd)

"REMEMBERING FOR THE FUTURE" CAMPAIGN UPDATE--The launch of the Center's fundraising campaign took place during a special dinner held on the first evening of the Pietism conference, October 23, 2024. The campaign has an initial goal of $2 million and is led by Rev. Ron Mowry. With the support of Callie Picardo, Vice President for Development at United, numerous volunteers, and devoted donors, this important campaign has raised over $700,000 in gifts and pledges thus far.

Thank you for your generous support to undergird the future of the Center!

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BONEBRAKE CAMPUS AS SEEN FROM THE AIR

Witnesses of Fout Demolition

Memories and More: Where Community was Built

Sarah Blair

As I start to think of my first impressions of United's Dayton View Campus, many recollections mingle. Each memory I have is now paired with a later memory, and I live within the dissonance of the two. I can well recall when I came to interview in the spring of 1999; I was picked up and driven to campus. We drove up Salem Avenue, eventually took a left turn, and went up a small rise to a stop sign. I now could see the beginning of the campus, and as the car turned into that long drive, I could see the buildings around the circle that would become so familiar to me over the next seven years.

Fout Hall was first, then came the chapel, followed by Bonebrake, the Library, (my first glimpse of a place my life would be centered for the next seven years), and, finally, Roberts Hall. Behind that, though less visible, stood the Power House. These, then, made up that historic campus which is now mostly a memory that we honor with this writing.

Three of the buildings I saw that day, Fout, Bonebrake, and the Power House (the heating plant for the whole complex) were the first to be built on the 274 acre campus originally purchased in 1911. They were not begun, however, until 1920 nor completed until 1923. The other three buildings were built between 1952 and 1961—first the library, then Roberts, and finally the Chapel.

As I mentioned, I arrived at the Harvard Campus and saw Fout Hall first. The next day I went to lunch there on the bottom floor of Fout. I recall walking in, and going up to the lunch line, thinking it would be ok—probably (it was hardly my first campus meal). And then I had my first taste of Jeri Getts' cooking. Delicious! When I returned to United for the Pietism Conference in October (2024) I remembered that long ago meal, and congratulated Jeri on both the memory and the present.

The Breyfogel/Zimmerman Chapel on "the old campus" (as those of us who made that transition called it) was so central to life there. I can hear in memory Ritter Werner, a premier musician, setting the place alive with the sound he produced from the organ which now sits in the library on the new campus. I smile to myself thinking of the request to house the organ in the library on the "new campus" as it was too tall to fit in the new chapel. The person who asked me was quite apologetic, then surprised—and pleased—when I said yes. I heard the dedication of that instrument in the old chapel; I cherish that it is still in the library.

Next around the circle from the chapel was the building that was the heart of the campus--Bonebrake Hall. The Hall retained the name of John and Mary Bonebrake, who originally donated the Kansas farmland that helped establish the seminary financially in the early 1900s. Every hour the clock at the top of Bonebrake chimed, keeping all of us on schedule for classes, lectures, and offices. When it was time to move from the old campus, I recall Tim Binkley (archivist at the time) going through boxes of materials in the clock tower as we tried to put the archives back into order. It had been several years without an archivist once Elmer and Betty O'Brien retired from the library and James Nelson died.

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(cont'd)

"I shall return"—like McArther—to the library after a brief acknowledgement of the next two buildings, Roberts Hall and the Power House. Roberts had housing, but also housed the offices of the financial people for the seminary. There I met Edna Ebersole, a salt of the earth woman, who kept the books for the seminary. She and Martha "Marti" Anderson (the registrar) were often at the heart of the staff community at both the old and new campuses. I thought of them as the two white pines that held up the sky like those in Native American lore.

Behind Roberts stood the Power House which generated, and then distributed, all the heat for the campus through various tunnels. In the winter, you could see where the tunnels were because the snow on top of them melted. In addition, there were wonderful, large Christmas decorations that were stored in the Power House. That building was the source of one of my most harrowing, or should I say detailed, memories of the library.

Late one Saturday afternoon, Barry Hamilton (then assistant librarian) and I realized there was a problem in the tunnels connecting the steam from the Power House to the library. A leak had sprung on the ground floor. There was no maintenance person on campus at such a time, so Barry and I had to jig our way into the tunnel. It was clear that we needed to close a valve which was above our heads. Barry found a ladder, but then, sheepishly admitted he was not comfortable with heights. So, I climbed that ladder but couldn't budge the valve. Finally, I kind of jumped off and by hanging my whole weight on the shutoff valve I got it closed. The damage that leak would have caused in the library was something I had to prevent, and I recall saying to Barry afterwards, "These are the things they never teach you in library school."

This was hardly the only time we had to worry about leaks in the building, but lest you think the leaks are all I remember, I have to share a little more. The first is how beautiful it was to see the sunset almost every evening from the ceiling-high windows on the west end of the library reading room. This view never got old. Also, the woodwork in that room, and the upstairs area that had once been known as "Dr. Drury's history room" was exquisite.

Do you know the expression, "read it and weep?" I certainly have done so as I have written this, but by 2004, the deterioration of the campus meant enormous expenses to stay, and equally enormous expenses to leave. Fout Hall was full of asbestos, as many 1950s buildings were. The Powerhouse had burned down a few years earlier (and with it all the cherished Christmas decorations), and the library was not the only building that leaked.

But a decision was made, and the move came. I mourned that move in many ways, but mostly the loss of that amazing community. When I recall stepping out on the steps of the Library to go to Chapel, and seeing the folk from Fout, Bonebrake, and Roberts heading to the Chapel, I realize now how much I missed being able to talk to people on the way to worship . . . and then after Chapel heading to the Dining Hall for Jeri's food and more good conversation. Sometimes I would just stop and listen to what I called "the happy buzz." It is an enduringly happy memory.

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Your membership helps the Center preserve the story and promote the study of the Christian traditions that formed The Evangelical United Brethren Church. Come join with like-minded people who are United Methodists, Global Methodists, former EUBs or EUB history enthusiasts, both lay and clergy, to take part in the ministry and mission of the Center.

Membership is an excellent way to stay in touch with the EUB historical community. It includes an email subscription to the TM and invitations to special events. Your membership dollars help to fund the mission of the Center and are tax-deductible as charitable donations for IRS purposes.

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